



Surname of the week – “SNYMAN”

Meaning: cutter

Origen: German = Schneider

SNYMAN or Schneider (German for "tailor", literally "someone who cuts," from the verb *schneiden* "to cut") is a very common surname in Germany. Alternative spellings include: Schnieder, Snyder, Snider, Sneider, Schnyder, Znaider, Schnaider, Schneiter, Shneider, Sneijder (Dutch), Snither (English), Snyman (Afrikaans), Schnider (Swiss German), Sznajder (Polish), Szneider, Snaider.

The progenitor for the SNYMAN surname in South Africa is Christoffel SNIJMAN. He was born in South Africa but was the sole survivor of his family and thus became the Progenitor. His father was Hans Christoffel Snyman (Schneider) from Heidelberg, Karlsruhe, Baden-Wurtemberg, Germany.

Christoffel SNIJMAN was baptized on March 9, 1669, his father was Hans, a soldier at the Cape. His father had a bad relationship with the slave Catharina of Bengal (Pulicat, Coromandel Coast, Tamil Nadu, India), who was also known as “Groot Catrijn”. His father was sent to Robben Island on July 30, 1667. He died in 1683 on Robben Island, South Africa. Christoffel's mother was this Catharina of Bengal.



In a letter from the government on January 6, 1672, it was reported that “Groot Catrijn” was also released after she too were incarcerated.

“Groot Catrijn” later married the “free-black” Anthony (Jansz) of Bengal, who then was Christoffel’s stepfather. The whole family died suddenly between December 1682 and February 1683, except Christoffel.

Christoffel was one of the few male half-slaves who married into the white community. Christoffel married Julie Margaret Therese DE SAVOYE in July of 1689, she was from Ghent, Flanders. Her parents were Jacques DE SAVOYE and Christine DU PONT.

They had nine children:

- b1 Jacobus Christoffel Snyman, born 10.12.1690 (young deceased?)
- b2 Catharina Snyman, born 27.1.1692 x Johannes Viljoen
- b3 Maria Magdelana Snyman, baptised 9.8.1693, x 15 Dec 1710 Theunis Botha
- b4 Christina Snyman, born 22.7.1695 x Jeremias Roux
- b5 Elsie Snyman, born 1.8.1697 x 22nd oct 1713 Jacobus Botha
- b6 Johanna Snyman, born 25.10.1699 x 7 Feb 1717 Anthonie Lombard
- b7 Philippus Snyman, baptised 24.7.1701 x 14 Apr 1726 Johanna Margaretha van Deventer
- b8 Susanna Snyman, baptised 28.10.1703 x Jacob Coetzer
- b9 Elisabeth Snyman, baptised 21.3.1706, passed 18 March 1758 x Jan Hendrik van Helsdingen

Christoffel Snyman farmed in 1692 in partnership with Ernst Friedrich Walter. He farmed on the farm Sandvliet in Groot Drakenstein. Christoffel Snyman died in 1706. Margaretha Therese de SAVOYE then married Henning Viljoen.

Distribution on the SNYMAN surname:

Place	Incidence	Frequency	Rank in Area
South Africa	47,363	1:1,140	125
England	260	1:213,845	18,322
Australia	210	1:113,209	12,796
United States	186	1:1,942,211	125,797
Saudi Arabia	158	1:195,305	28,413
New Zealand	120	1:37,729	6,443
Namibia	117	1:20,594	3,566

Some well-known people (mostly sports-men) carry the SNYMAN surname:

- André Snyman, South African rugby player
- Brendon Snyman, South African rugby player
- Dana Snyman, South African journalist
- Eli Snyman, Zimbabwe-born South African rugby union player
- Gerrie Snyman, Namibian cricketer
- Harold Snyman, South African policeman
- Johan Snyman, South African rugby player
- Neal Snyman, South African recorder and producer
- Neil Snyman, South African cricketer
- Philip Snyman, South African rugby player
- Robin Roy Snyman, South African cleric
- Ruan Snyman, South African rugby player
- "JP" Snyman du Plessis, South African rugby player

